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T.R.

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/184,587 11/03/98 KOJIMA

H 826.1515/JDH

EXAMINER

TM02/1022

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STASS & HALSEY
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BARTUSKA, F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED:

10/22/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

SM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/184,587

Applicant(s)

H. KOJIMA et al

Examiner

F. J. BARTUSKI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sept 10, 2001
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 9-10-01 is: ☒ approved ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-28, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Walker et al. Walker et al show a witness system 200, that receives purchase offers 100 from buyers, transmits the offers to sellers, receives seller responses 110 and transmits purchase confirmation 120 to the buyer and the seller, see col. 20, lines 2-4. The witness system confirms that the documents are accurate in col. 19, lines 32-40 and col. 18, lines 8-14. The witness system authenticates both the buyer and the seller, see col. 24, lines 31-46 and col. 26, lines 47-50. The witness system 200 has databases 265, 270 and 275 which keep track of all the transactions. The witness system includes a bonding agency 170 that issues a bonding certificate that verifies the ability of the buyer to pay and the ability of the seller to deliver the goods, see col. 27, line 19 to col. 30, line 29.

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Payment transfer means are disclosed in col. 21, lines 45-61. Payment by checks is disclosed in col. 20, line 53. Col. 19, lines 54-60 disclose that the seller can transmit the CPO directly to the buyer and then the buyer submits the CPO to the central controller for verification and authentication. Also, the counteroffer procedure disclosed in col. 9, lines 44-51, col. 13, lines 30-35 and col. 22, line 39 to col. 23, line 18 is another situation in which the buyer receives offers from a seller and submits them to the central controller.

3. Claims 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Walker et al. Walker et al discloses a witness system including a first computing means 400 for making document data, a second computing means 300 for confirming the document data and a third computing means 200 for storing in memory the confirmed document data. DES encryption is disclosed in col. 24, line 28.

Response to Arguments

4. The applicants' remarks have been considered but have not been found persuasive because of the disclosure in Walker et al where the buyer does receive documents from the seller and then forwards them to the central computer, see col. 19, lines 54-60 which disclose that the seller can transmit the CPO directly to the buyer and then the buyer submits the CPO to the central controller for

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verification and authentication. Also, the counteroffer procedure disclosed in col. 9, lines 44-51, col. 13, lines 30-35 and col. 22, line 39 to col. 23, line 18 is another situation in which the buyer receives offers from a seller and submits them to the central controller.

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

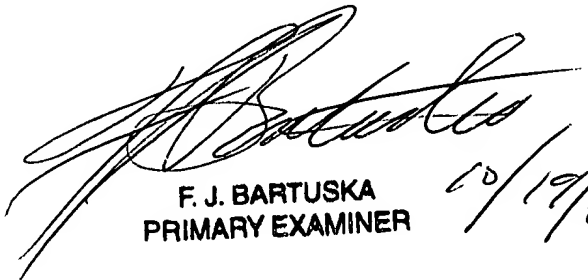
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. J. Bartuska whose telephone number is (703) 308-1111. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through

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Thursday from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski, can be reached on (703) 308-5183. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


F. J. BARTUSKA
PRIMARY EXAMINER 10/19/01